

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Bureau of Agricultural Development & Resource Preservation Programs & Services



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www.CTGrown.gov

Farmers' Market

Farmer's markets provide weekly community events while celebrating the State's rich agricultural heritage and supporting the local economy. Over 400 farmers and local producers reap the rewards of having a direct sales marketplace. A large supporter of these markets is the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). The FMNP provides checks to nutritionally at risk Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and low income seniors while supporting local agriculture. The checks can be used to purchase CT Grown fruits and vegetables at participating farmers' markets.

Farmers' Market Price Survey - Connecticut DoAg representatives perform weekly market visits that include recording prices. Retail commodity prices are emailed weekly to farmers, allowing them to track ever changing market prices. The Farmers Market Reference Guide is an updatable publication that provides guidance for those who want to start a farmers' market, expand on an existing market, or participate in a market as a vendor. A general overview of common market rules is covered as well as applicable codes and laws of governing state and local agencies. This guide was developed specifically for the enhancement of farmers' markets and farms/businesses that participate in Connecticut Farmers' Markets. For more information on the farmers' market programs, contact Richard Macsuga at Richard.Macsuga@ct.gov or 860.713.2544.

Hartford Regional Market

The Hartford Regional Market is a statutorily authorized facility located at 101 Reserve Road in Hartford. Its purpose is to provide a central location for farmers and wholesalers to sell and distribute food and other agricultural products. It is the largest perishable food distribution facility between Boston and New York. The market is operated by the state as a self-sustaining nonprofit venture which is fully funded by fees generated from the operation of the market.

For more information, email DoAg.ctregmkt@ct.gov or call 860.527.5047.

Informational Listings & Brochures

Agricultural producers and agri-businesses can sign up to be included on one or more of the Department of Agriculture's nine online informational listings or printed brochures. These include apple, dairy, honey, meat, and wholesale vegetable producers; farmers' markets and farm stands/stores; and agritourism and pick-your-own farms. Contact the marketing division for more information or download an application at www.CTGrown.gov (click on "Publications").



Joint Venture Grant

The Joint Venture Grant was developed to help market and create demand for Connecticut ag products through the use of the CT Grown logo or slogan. Things to know about this grant: Projects must use the slogan "CT Grown" or the "CT Grown" logo.



Applications are accepted from Jan. 1st to Jan. 30th annually. Funds shall be used to promote CT Grown products only. Eligible applicants include farmers markets, municipalities, and agricultural nonprofits.

A 50% cash match is required of the applicant, with maximum award of \$2,995. Funds shall only be used for programs that are directly related to marketing or promotion of CT Grown products. For more information contact Jaime Smith at Jaime.Smith@ct.gov or 860.713.2559.

New Farmer Assistance

New and beginning farmers can receive start-up farm and agribusiness assistance. Information about state statutes pertaining to agriculture, loan and grant programs available, farm exemptions, farm taxes, and organizational contact information will be provided. A New Farmer Packet is the starting point for this assistance. Contact Ronald Olsen at Ronald.Olsen@ct.gov or 860.713.2550.

Organic Certification Cost Program

A program offered through USDA Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) authorizes the Connecticut Dept. Of Agriculture (CT DoAG) to provide cost-share assistance to Connecticut's certified organic crop and livestock producers.



All producers certified to meet the National Organic Program standards (NOP) by accredited certifying agents may apply for funds. Cost share payments to eligible producers is limited to 75% of the producers' certification costs up to a maximum of \$750. For more information, contact Rick Macsuga 860.713.2544 or Richard.Macsuga@ct.gov.

Outreach & Education

The Marketing Division provides outreach and education on agency programs, information on Connecticut agriculture, and educational seminars on current agricultural topics to agricultural organizations and other interested groups. Information about CT Grown products, producers, and events are disseminated regularly to the media through news releases and other forms of outreach. For more information about outreach and education, please call the Marketing Division at 860.713.250

PA 490 and Agricultural Land Use

The Marketing Bureau can provide assistance to land owners, town assessors, and land use officials explaining the often unclear association between farming, property taxes, and farming exemptions that may be available to eligible production farmers. For more information about PA 490 and the established land use values, visit www.CTGrown.gov or contact Ronald Olsen at Ronald.Olsen@ct.gov or 860.713.2550.

POP Cards & Crop Availability Calendars

These free point of purchase materials are available to producers to advertise CT Grown products. Also available, seasonal crop availability calendar! Call 860.713.2503 to order!



Specialty Crop Block Grant-FB Grant (SCBG) Program

The SCBG Program, whose funds originate from the USDA Ag Marketing Service, is designed to “solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.” Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

Things to know about this grant:

Applications are accepted annually in spring/early summer. Projects must impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public rather than a single organization, institution, or individual.

Projects are awarded for up to \$75,000. Projects cannot exceed three years. No match is required. For more information about Connecticut's SCBG Program, and funded projects to benefit the industry, contact Jaime Smith at Jaime.Smith@ct.gov or 860.713.2559.

Website for the Department of Agriculture www.CTGrown.gov

The Agency's website, www.CTGrown.gov or www.ct.gov/doag provides information to both producers and the general public. Information on agency programs and services, staff, latest news, and grant information is available to producers. For the public, information about the animal population control program, rabies prevention, how to find a farm or an agricultural fair, and more is available. Information is added regularly. For questions or comments on the agency website contact Jaime Smith, Jaime.Smith@ct.gov or 860.713.2559.

The Farmland Preservation Program

The Farmland Preservation Program is a program within DoAg with a mission to help preserve Connecticut's local food security, agricultural heritage, and farmland economy through the purchase of development rights on farms with productive soils in agricultural communities.

Farm owners voluntarily apply and offers are negotiated. Once approved and enrolled, an easement that runs in perpetuity is placed on the property. The perpetual easement limits future use of the land to agricultural purposes, prohibiting its subdivision and development.

Farms qualifying for the program consist of lands classified as prime and important farmland soils, are typically in cropland, but may include adjacent pastures, wooded land and other open areas. Farmland must achieve a minimum score of 65 or higher before being considered. To meet the minimum score, farms must generally be in active food and/or fiber production, contain a high percentage of prime and important farmland soils with at least 30 acres of cropland, and be located in an agricultural community.

The program works with cost-sharing partners to achieve the program's mission including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, local municipalities, or statewide agricultural land trusts whenever possible.

Farmland Restoration Program

Made possible by Public Act 11-1, the Farmland Restoration Program is a voluntary reimbursement grant program with an objective of increasing food and fiber production agriculture. The focus is on prime and state wide important farmland soils. Work is done in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan.

Community Farms Program

The Community Farms Program was designed to encourage municipal involvement in local farmland preservation. Municipalities work in cooperation with the DoAg, Farmland Preservation Unit to preserve farms identified as priorities by the towns.

Visit the program website at www.CTGrown.gov (under Programs and Services).

You can also contact the Farmland Preservation Program Unit at 860.713.2511

Connecticut Weekly Agriculture Report

The agency's weekly newsletter continuously published since 1920, the Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report contains agricultural articles, price reports, meeting notices, and classified advertisements. The report is published 48 times per year. USPS mailed subscriptions run 1/1/14 through 12/31/15 and cost \$40. The report is also available by email free of charge. Info to place an ad, subscribe, or submit a notice is available on www.CTGrown.gov under Publications, or contact Marketing at 860.713.2503.

Export Assistance

Through cooperative efforts with Food Export USA Northeast, the Department offers both educational and cost share programs to help Connecticut food businesses start or continue exporting. Services available include: determining if exporting is right for you, finding countries for your product, covering expenses to modifying product labels, shipping samples, attending trade shows, and meeting with buyers one-on-one. For more information contact Jaime Smith: Jaime.Smith@ct.gov or 860.713.2559.



Farm-to-Chef



This program helps connect producers and distributors of CT Grown ingredients with chefs and other foodservice professionals, through a variety of educational and networking initiatives and through one-on-one consultation. It also helps the public locate restaurants and other venues that serve CT Grown foods. There is no cost to join. Contact Linda Piotrowicz at Linda.Piotrowicz@ct.gov or 860.713.2558.

Farm-to-School

A program designed to help farmers sell their products and to encourage pre-k to high school food service directors to use CT Grown fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meats in school meals.

We invest the time to create markets with wholesalers and other state and federal contracts to help our farmers sell more CT Grown! Look for more info at www.CTGrown.gov/farmtoschool or contact Jane Slupecki at 860.713.2588 or Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov to enroll in the program.



Farm Reinvestment Grant

The Farm Reinvestment Grant was developed to ensure future viability of agriculture in our state. By providing money for capital enhancement to farms, it is the Department's hope to help preserve Connecticut's agricultural base and improve farm production.

Things to know about this grant:

- Open only to existing agricultural producers in business three years or more. Applicants must provide a business plan.
- A maximum of \$40,000 will be awarded. This is a matching grant that may only be used for capital projects. Questions should be directed to Ron Olsen at Ronald.Olsen@ct.gov or 860.713.2550.

For more information about other programs within the Connecticut Department of Agriculture visit www.CTGrown.gov

Farm Transition Grant

The Farm Transition Grant is used to strengthen the economic viability of Connecticut farmers and ag cooperatives.

Things to know about this grant:

Producer and ag cooperative matches must be at least 50%. A max of \$49,999 can be applied for. Funds may be used for capital projects, equipment, marketing strategies, educational activities, among others. The state monies that go toward this program are 05-228. Applicants may apply more than one time even if they have received previous grant dollars. Questions should be directed to Ron Olsen at 860.713.2550 or Ronald.Olsen@ct.gov.

Farm Viability Grant

A competitive matching grant program that may be used for capital projects, ag friendly land use regulations, planning projects or initiatives to support agriculture.

Things to know about this grant:

- May only be used by municipalities, regional planning agencies, ag 501c (3) non profits, and assoc. of municipalities. A maximum grant award is \$49,999.
- A 50% match is required, 40% for non profits, and may include "in-kind". Applicants may apply more than one time even they if have previously received grant dollars.
- The state monies for this program are specifically set aside with the passage of Public Act 05-228. Questions should be directed to Ron Olsen at Ronald.Olsen@ct.gov or 860.713.2550.

FarmLink



A program developed in response to the demand by new farmers searching for farmland. Young and old farmers use this site to find new/additional farmland to start or grow their farms. The site has information on how to start a farm in Connecticut, how to begin the process of farm transfer, and a list of partners in the state who can assist you through the process. An average of 40 properties are listed for people to consider. Visit the FarmLink site, by going to Programs and Services. To learn more, contact Jane Slupecki at Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov or 860.713.2588

Ag Directional Signage



This program is designed to direct tourists and consumers off state roadways to local roads where farm are established. There are currently over 175 ag directional signs in Connecticut. Contact Richard Macsuga at Richard.Macsuga@ct.gov or at 860.713.2544 for an application.

CT Grown Mascots

Eleven costumes have been purchased for your agricultural events to encourage children and adults to eat and buy fresh CT Grown fruits and veggies. You can borrow them free of charge. The program runs from April 15 to November 15.



To reserve costumes, contact Jane Slupecki at Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov or 860.713.2588.

CT Farm Map

Visit Connecticut's farms, courtesy of our Connecticut Farm Map and Website that lists over 200 agricultural destinations. The Farm Map Website is a web-based version of our printed map with easy access to participating farms' websites. The Map is updated and reprinted approximately every two years.

Contact Jane Slupecki at Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov or 860.713.2588 for more information.

The CT Grown Program

The CT Grown Program was developed in 1986 to distinguish Connecticut products through the use of a logo. The program's mission is to market Connecticut agricultural products in as many different avenues as possible.

For additional information please call

860.713.2503 or visit our website at

www.CTGrown.gov



Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Revickzy, Commissioner

www.CTGrown.gov